

LET'S NOT RETURN TO A BROKEN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

(Mr. HEINRICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, last year we took a desperately needed stand for America's families and small businesses over the insurance companies. We took a stand against insurance company abuses like discrimination against the sick, lifetime limits, the prescription drug doughnut hole, and a resulting \$1 trillion increase to our deficit.

We took a stand for hardworking Americans like Vicky Farrar, who moved to Albuquerque only to discover that to reenroll in a health insurance plan she would end up spending close to a third of her income because of her preexisting condition, high blood pressure. That kind of skyrocketing cost burden has stunted the dreams of American families and small businesses while lining the pockets of insurance company CEOs. But thanks to the American Affordable Care Act, Vicky and her doctor will be put back in charge of her health care and able to choose an affordable insurance policy.

I urge my colleagues to vote against a return to the broken health care system that we spent decades trying to fix.

SHOTS ACROSS THE BORDER

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently, in the border ghost town of Fort Quitman, Texas, a county road crew came under automatic weapon fire. The four Hudspeth County workers reported at least eight shots were fired at them from across the border in Mexico.

The Rio Grande is very narrow in this isolated region and is used by armed drug smugglers to bring drugs into the United States. Speculation by the Texas Rangers is the shooter was trying to protect the drug route from the workers. This newest attack on the road crew is yet another example of the brazen, violent determination of outlaws to invade the United States.

The United States protects the borders of other nations. Why doesn't the Federal Government do its constitutional duty and really protect our border from foreign invaders? Are border States going to have to not only give road crews shovels but rifles to protect them from the drug cartels?

It's time to be serious and protect Americans and put more National Guard troops on the border. Meanwhile, Washington seems to be whistling by the graveyard of indifference.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE REPEAL

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share the story of Patricia Maisch. Pat, as her friends call her, lives outside Tucson and has been fittingly hailed as one of the heroes during the tragic shooting of our colleague and friend GABBY GIFFORDS. Pat actually knocked the second gun clip out of the shooter's hand as he was attempting to reload, very likely saving the lives of more innocent people.

She was in line to talk to her Congresswoman, to share that she thought that the title of the health care repeal bill was disingenuous and because Pat and her husband own a small business north of Tucson. The spouse of one of their employees has a preexisting condition and they have been unable to find affordable coverage to cover her. Pat wanted to tell Congresswoman GIFFORDS that the health reform law will help them provide health insurance for this employee. She wanted to ask Gabby to stand up to attempts to repeal health reform.

Pat was unable to deliver her message to her Representative, but she asked me to share it with you now. Heed the words of Pat Maisch. Heed the words of millions of Americans needing health care. Don't repeal vital health care reform.

REPEAL GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

(Mr. DENHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of repealing the government takeover of health care forced through Congress without the input of the American people.

This country is currently in the midst of a terrible recession and it's clear that shouldering America's small businesses with heavier tax burdens and increased regulation will only prolong our road to recovery.

By mandating that small businesses and individuals carry government-approved health care, the Federal Government has dramatically overstepped the boundaries of personal freedom guaranteed by our Constitution. It infringes on the rights of the States by forcing new requirements upon them and penalizing them should they choose to opt out of the Federal mandate.

The American people were misled. A government-run health care plan will limit access and choice, and millions of Americans will lose their coverage because of mandates from bureaucrats in Washington.

REPEAL OF THE PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today we continue debate on the Re-

publicans' most unfortunate effort to repeal health care reform that we passed during the last Congress. This repeal will increase the deficit by \$230 billion. No one disagrees with that but Republicans. That's why the Republican majority exempted this legislation from pay-as-you-go budgeting. You know this repeal will increase the deficit.

Keeping the law in its present form not only decreases the deficit but will provide 32 million uninsured Americans the opportunity to obtain insurance and provide dependable coverage for their families; it allows children to remain on their family's policy to age 26; it closes the doughnut hole, and it does so much more.

Mr. Speaker, I can usually see both sides of an issue, but for the life of me, I can't see what the Republicans are trying to achieve but to score political points with their right-wing base.

I call on my friends to abandon your efforts and let's concentrate on putting Americans to work. That's what my constituents are demanding and your constituents as well.

HISTORIC DAY—REPEAL OF OBAMACARE

(Mr. GRAVES of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today is a historic day in America. Acting on the will of the voters and the majority of all Americans, today we will vote to repeal ObamaCare.

Now, while the Senate appears less interested in following suit, here in the House this vote marks the beginning of round two of a vigorous and spirited national debate on health care. Over the coming months and weeks, this debate will go from Congress to kitchen tables all across this country. So as we reengage in this debate, the party on the left questions: Why do the American people want this policy repealed so bad? So let's revisit some of those areas.

Number one, the employee mandate, penalizing and punishing businesses for not having government-approved health care; the individual mandate, punishing and taxing Americans who choose not to have government-approved health care; the \$569 billion in new taxes on the American people; jobs being lost; the cost of the bill, \$2.6 trillion with a \$700 billion deficit over the first 10 years of its life; and, yes, 222 corporations already exempt and waived from this policy. That's why.

It's time to reopen the debate, debunk the myths, and replace this law with less costly, market-driven solutions that truly expand access and affordability, and above all, preserve our individual liberties.